

System and Method for Retrieving Data from Disk in a Network Environment

ABSTRACT

5 A system and method of retrieving data from a disk includes determining the network
transfer rate of a network connection between a client and a server. A first portion of the
requested data is retrieved from the disk responsive to a data request received by the server from
the client via a network connection and transmission of the first portion of data to the client via
the network is initiated. The time required to transmit the first portion of data to the client is
10 calculated based upon the network transfer rate and a determination of when to retrieve a
subsequent portion of the requested data from disk is made based, in part, on whether the
calculated time is expired. The determination of when to retrieve subsequent portions of data
from disk may be further based on a desire to minimize a system parameter such as memory
usage or disk energy consumption and heat dissipation.

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